

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 03067 01 OF 02 180351Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05
DODE-00 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-01
ACDA-10 /057 W
-----086512 180408Z /64

R 171619Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5972
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03067

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV GE GW UR WB
SUBJECT: APPARENT SOVIET INTEREST IN DIRECT DISCUSSIONS
WITH THE FRG ON FRG-GDR RELATIONS

SUMMARY. AN FRG OFFICIAL HAS TOLD US THAT THE SOVIETS
ARE MAKING OVERTURES TO THE FRG FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT FRG-GDR RELATIONS. IN THOSE CONVERSATIONS, THE
SOVIET OFFICIALS INDICATE SOME SUSPICIONS ABOUT GDR
ACTIVITIES AND ATTITUDES. END SUMMARY.

1. DIETRICH SPANGENBERG, STATE SECRETARY IN THE FRG
MINISTRY FOR INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS, HAS TOLD THE
POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT THE SOVIETS ARE MAKING OVER-
TURES TO THE WEST GERMANS FOR BRIEFINGS ON GDR-FRG
RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN DURING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 03067 01 OF 02 180351Z

A RECENT CONVERSATION TOLD HIM (SPANGENBERG) THAT HE
WOULD LIKE TO GET TOGETHER MORE OFTEN WITH SPANGENBERG
IN ORDER TO LEARN WHAT IS GOING ON IN FRG-GDR RELATIONS.
FALIN COMPLAINED TO SPANGENBERG THAT THE GDR WAS NOT
FULLY BRIEFING THE SOVIETS, BUT THAT THE SOVIETS NEEDED
TO KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING. FALIN ALSO IMPLIED THAT THE
SOVIETS WERE NOT INFORMED ABOUT THE EAST GERMAN PURCHASE

OF WEST GERMAN VOLSWAGEN GOLF CARS.

2. SPANGENBERG ADDED THAT FALIN SAID HE WAS NOW REPEAT NOW SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS BERLIN AND INNER-GERMAN MATTERS WITH THE FRG. SPANGENBERG OBSERVED THAT THIS APPEARED LIKE A RADICAL DEPARTURE IN SOVIET ATTITUDES. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT ENCOURAGE FALIN.

3. SPANGENBERG SAID ANOTHER RUSSIAN COMPLAINED TO HIM THAT THE GDR NOW OBTAINS ABOUT DM ONE BILLION PER YEAR FROM THE FRG THROUGH DIVERSE CHANNELS THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE INNER-GERMAN OFFICIAL ACCOUNTING SYSTEM (E.G., PAYMENTS FOR PRISONER RELEASES, MONEY FOR CHURCHES IN EAST GERMANY, PRIVATE GIFTS, ETC.). THE RUSSIAN COMPLAINED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE UNABLE TO MONITOR THESE PAYMENTS AND THAT THEY SUSPECTED THE MONEY WAS BEING USED BY THE GDR FOR ITS OWN PURPOSE WITHOUT REGARD TO THE GREATER GOOD OF THE ENTIRE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY. IT WAS IMPLIED THAT OTHER EAST EUROPEAN STATES ARE UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS AS WELL.

4. SPANGENBERG SAID THAT GAUS, THE FRG REPRESENTATIVE IN EAST BERLIN, IN PARTICULAR APPEARS TO BE MAKING HIMSELF UNPOPULAR WITH THE SOVIETS AND WITH ABRASIMOV BECAUSE HE GETS AROUND SO MUCH AND IS SO SOUGHT AFTER. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 03067 01 OF 02 180351Z

THIS HAS MADE ABRASIMOV FEEL THAT HE IS NO LONGER "NUMBER ONE."

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 03067 02 OF 02 180350Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05
DODE-00 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-01
ACDA-10 /057 W
-----086484 180407Z /64

R 171619Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5973
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03067

LIMDIS

5. SPANGENBERG SPECULATED ALONG FAMILIAR LINES WITH REGARD TO DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST GERMANY. HE DID ADD TWO POINTS OF INTEREST ON PERSONALIA:

-- SPANGENBERG HAS ABSOLUTELY FIRM EVIDENCE THAT STOPH HAS BEEN IN MOSCOW FOR AT LEAST EIGHT DAYS DURING HIS ABSENCE FROM EAST BERLIN, BUT SPANGENBERG IS NOT CERTAIN WHERE STOPH MAY HAVE BEEN THE REST OF THE TIME.

-- SPANGENBERG SAID THAT HERMANN VON BERG, THE SHADOWY FIGURE WHO APPEARS TO ACT AT THE FRINGES OF THE SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE AS A CONTACT MAN WITH THE WEST AND AS A STOPH SUPPORTER, HAS SPENT FOUR WEEKS IN MOSCOW AND IS STILL THERE. SPANGENBERG OBSERVED THAT VON BERG COULD NOT HAVE DONE SOME OF THE THINGS HE ALLEGEDLY HAS DONE (SUCH AS AUTHOR -- IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 03067 02 OF 02 180350Z

PART -- AND TRANSMIT TO SPIEGEL THE ALLEGED SED OPPOSITION "MANIFESTO") IF HE DID NOT HAVE A RATHER SECURE MOSCOW CONNECTION AS WELL. VON BERG ONCE TOLD SPANGENBERG THAT HE HAD SUCH A CONNECTION, BUT THAT IT WAS NOT VIA ABRASIMOV.
MEEHAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN03067
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780075-0269
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780243/aaaabkjd.tel
Line Count: 159
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: af5e47d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3566271
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPARENT SOVIET INTEREST IN DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRG ON FRG-GDR RELATIONS SUMMARY. AN FRG OFFICIAL HAS TOLD US THAT THE SOV
TAGS: PGOV, GC, GE, UR, WB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/af5e47d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014